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# Title

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Dette legges til i DAIM, og blir derfor fjernet før innlevering.

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## **Abstract**

Mobile robot platforms etc...



## **Sammendrag**

Mobile robotplatfromer kan kjøre rundt og...



## Preface

Hva synes jeg om oppgaven? Kjempeartig! Eget acknowledgementkapittel?



# Contents

<b>List of Acronyms</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>List of Acronyms</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>List of Algorithms</b>	<b>xvii</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 About the Thesis . . . . .	1
1.1.1 Long Term Goal and Previous Work . . . . .	1
1.2 Implementation Overview . . . . .	2
1.3 Thesis Structure . . . . .	2
<b>2 Task Outline and Planning</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Introduction . . . . .	5
2.2 Task definition . . . . .	5
2.3 Specification . . . . .	5
2.4 Planning . . . . .	5
2.4.1 Work Breakdown Structure . . . . .	5
<b>3 Background Theory</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 Robotic Maintenance of Industrial Installations . . . . .	7
3.1.1 Introduction . . . . .	7
3.1.2 Potential Maintenance Tasks . . . . .	7
3.1.3 Which Tasks Can Be Robotised? . . . . .	7
3.1.4 Structural Maintenance and Inspection . . . . .	9
3.2 Robotic Maintenance Today . . . . .	9
3.3 Modelling and Simulation . . . . .	12
3.3.1 Some Terminology . . . . .	12
3.3.2 Robot Modelling . . . . .	12

3.3.3	Simulating in Gazebo . . . . .	12
3.4	ROS . . . . .	12
3.4.1	Introduction . . . . .	12
3.4.2	Important ROS Concepts . . . . .	13
3.4.3	ROS-Related Tools . . . . .	13
3.4.4	Structure of a ROS Application . . . . .	13
3.4.5	Notable Robots Running ROS . . . . .	13
3.5	Software . . . . .	14
3.5.1	Qt . . . . .	14
3.5.2	PCL . . . . .	14
3.6	The Kinect Sensor . . . . .	14
3.7	Software Tools . . . . .	14
3.7.1	Point Cloud Library . . . . .	14
3.7.2	ROS . . . . .	14
3.7.3	Qt . . . . .	14
3.7.4	Current Research and Applications . . . . .	14
3.8	Introduction to Sensors in Autonomous Robots . . . . .	14
3.8.1	Depth Cameras . . . . .	14
3.8.2	Planar Laser Sensors (LIDAR) . . . . .	16
3.8.3	Odometers . . . . .	16
3.8.4	Sensor Fusion . . . . .	16
3.9	Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM) . . . . .	16
3.9.1	Introduction to SLAM . . . . .	16
3.9.2	Hector SLAM . . . . .	16
3.9.3	RTAB-Map . . . . .	16
3.9.4	Octomap . . . . .	17
3.10	Navigation . . . . .	17
<b>4</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1	Modeling . . . . .	19
4.1.1	Introduction . . . . .	19
4.1.2	Physical Dimensions . . . . .	19
4.1.3	Coordinate Frames . . . . .	20
4.2	Simulations . . . . .	20
4.3	ROS Nodes for Motion Control . . . . .	20
4.3.1	Velocity Command Sources . . . . .	20
4.4	Operator Control Station (OCS) . . . . .	20
4.4.1	Graphical User Interface . . . . .	20
4.5	The Hand Held Remote Control - <i>Robot Leash</i> . . . . .	22
4.5.1	Connecting to the Robot . . . . .	22
<b>5</b>	<b>Testing</b>	<b>25</b>

5.1	Testplan . . . . .	25
5.2	Results . . . . .	25
5.2.1	Simulations . . . . .	25
5.2.2	Live Testing . . . . .	25
5.3	Discussion . . . . .	25
<b>6</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>31</b>
7.1	Future Work . . . . .	31
7.1.1	Autonomous Non-Destructive Testing . . . . .	31
7.1.2	Large Scale Kinect Fusion - Kintinous . . . . .	31
7.1.3	Hardware . . . . .	32
7.2	Task Fulfillment . . . . .	33
7.3	Task Fulfilment . . . . .	33
7.4	Final Conclusion . . . . .	33
<b>References</b>		<b>35</b>
<b>Appendices</b>		
<b>A</b>	<b>Setting Up the Project</b>	<b>37</b>
A.1	Installation . . . . .	37
A.1.1	Equipment List . . . . .	37
A.1.2	Install Ubuntu . . . . .	37
A.1.3	Download ROS . . . . .	37
A.2	Configuring the Project . . . . .	37
A.2.1	Configuring the ROS Workspace . . . . .	37
A.2.2	Configuring the Bluetooth Connection . . . . .	37
<b>B</b>	<b>Troubleshooting</b>	<b>39</b>
B.1	Introduction . . . . .	39
B.2	ROS . . . . .	39
B.2.1	<b>ERROR:</b> tf2:ExtrapolationException . . . . .	39
B.3	Gazebo . . . . .	40
B.3.1	<b>Error [Node.cc.90]</b> No namespace found . . . . .	40
B.3.2	Dependency Issues When Installing <i>gazebo2</i> . . . . .	40
B.4	Ubuntu . . . . .	40
B.4.1	Ubuntu Freezes . . . . .	40



# List of Figures

1.1	System Concept.	3
3.1	Subsea 7's AIV. This is the first commercial autonomous inspection vehicle for subsea operations [pre]	10
3.2	Team HRP2-Tokyo's robot turning a valve during DARPA Robotics Challenge 2015 (Image credits: DARPA Robotics Challenge)	11
3.3	Awesome Image	18
3.4	Awesome Image	18
4.1	Robot model with frames for laser, Kinect, robot base and map.	21
4.2	Sensor input placed with correct transformations from <i>base_link</i> .	21
4.3	Nodes and topics for motion control.	21
4.4	Velocity command ramping. The blue line represents commands entering <i>velocity_ramp</i> , while the red line shows the acceleration constrained output command.	23
4.5	A typical use case for "Robot Leash".	23
5.1	The "Asphalt" world in Gazebo.	26
5.2	An example of incorrect map merging. This case occurred in the "Asphalt" world simulated in Gazebo.	26
5.3	Nodes and topics for motion control.	27
7.1	Worn omniwheel	32



# List of Tables

3.1 Some tasks with potential to be "robotized", and the corresponding robot category[PBB11] . . . . .	8
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# List of Acronyms

**AI** Artificial Intelligence

**AV** Autonomous Inspection Vehicle

**CLM** Concurrent Localization and Mapping

**CP** Cathodic Protection

**DRC** DARPA Robotics Challenge

**IFA** Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation

**GUI** Graphical User Interface

**HMI** Human-Machine Interaction

**HSE** Health, Safety and Environment

**IFR** International Federation of Robotics

**IO** Integrated Operations

**ISS** International Space Station

**ITK** Department of Engineering Cybernetics

**LIDAR** Light Detection And Ranging

**MIMROex** Mobile Inspection and Monitoring Robot, experimental

**NDT** Non-destructive Testing

**MIT** Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**NUI** Natural user interface

**OCS** Operator Control Station

**PR** Personal Robot

**ROS** Robot Operating System

**ROV** Remotely Operated Vehicle

**RPAS** Remotely Piloted Aerial System

**RTAB-Map** Real-Time Appearance-Based Mapping

**SDF** Simulation Description Format

**SIFT** Scale-invariant feature transform

**SLAM** Simultaneous Localization And Mapping

**SSD** Solid State Drive

**SURF** Speeded Up Robust Features

**STAIR** Stanford AI Robot

**UAV** Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

**URDF** Unified Robot Description Format

**VR** Virtual Reality

## List of Algorithms



# Chapter 1

# Introduction

## Introduction

### 1.1 About the Thesis

#### 1.1.1 Long Term Goal and Previous Work

##### The Topic - Mobile Autonomous Robot

The robot system that was used in this project, has been developed over the course of many preceding master and specialization projects. The long term goal of these projects is to develop a mobile autonomous robot for maintenance and inspection on topside offshore installations. The topic is given by Professor Tor Onshus at Department of Engineering Cybernetics (ITK). A description of this topic<sup>1</sup>, suggests some possible applications for such a robot:

- The robot could serve in a supporting role as a part of Integrated Operations (IO).
- It can also be used to prepare an unmanned topside offshore installation before the arrival of a maintenance crew, by performing safety checks and preparing the helicopter landing pad.
- Allow personnel to perform remote inspection and maintenance through telepresence.
- In combination with Virtual Reality (VR), the robot could be used for training purposes.

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<sup>1</sup><http://folk.ntnu.no/onshus/Oppgaver.htm>

2 1. INTRODUCTION

**Building the Mobile Platform**

**Simultaneous Localization and Mapping**

**1.2 Implementation Overview**

**1.3 Thesis Structure**

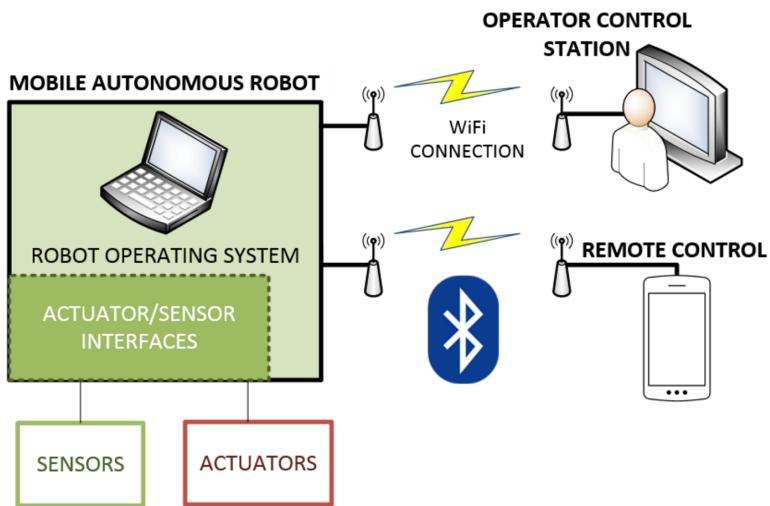


Figure 1.1: System Concept.



# Chapter 2

## Task Outline and Planning

### 2.1 Introduction

The original problem description given at the beginning of this semester is very open. A significant part of the project is oriented towards

### 2.2 Task definition

### 2.3 Specification

### 2.4 Planning

#### 2.4.1 Work Breakdown Structure



# Chapter 3

## Background Theory

### 3.1 Robotic Maintenance of Industrial Installations

#### 3.1.1 Introduction

This project is a small step towards a larger long-term goal concerning robotic maintenance on topside offshore installations. This section puts the following background theory, and the implementation described in chapter 4, into the context of the long-term goal.

This section will introduce how topside maintenance is performed today, how these maintenance tasks could be robotised. The section is concluded with a discussion on how well modern robotics is suited for the task.

#### 3.1.2 Potential Maintenance Tasks

Hidden failure modes: PFD: What is the probability that a device (Fire detector, shut down valve, etc.) will fail when needed? Solution: Periodic maintenance.

#### 3.1.3 Which Tasks Can Be Robotised?

Over the last decade, the oil and gas industry has shown an increased interest in the potential benefits of automating the normal operation of remote offshore installations. It is now clear that robotics has several potential applications in process plants, and particularly in remote oil and gas installations. Current research on plant automation is mainly motivated by two factors[KMP15] [AS12]:

- **HSE** - Reduced risk exposure for personnel and environment.
- **Efficiency** - Accomplish more with less effort, resources and time. This means cost reduction by keeping downtime to a minimum with the least amount of effort.

### 8 3. BACKGROUND THEORY

Robot Applications Including Categorization		
Category	Robot	Robot Task/Activity Description
B	Pipeline rigging robot	To autonomously load and offload pigs into pipelines.
C	Boat handling robot < 500 kg	To transfer personnel and loads below 500 kg to and from boats.
D	Boat handling robot > 500 kg	To transfer loads above 500 kg to and from boats.
B	Mobile universal service robot version 1	To perform "buddy" roles; carrying, holding, lifting, personal safety monitoring etc.
C	Mobile universal service robot version 2	To autonomously perform task not involving manipulation of the process or facilities.
D	Mobile universal service robot version 3	To autonomously perform tasks involving manipulation of the process or facilities.
D	Treatment/Inspection robot	To autonomously perform inspection/treatment(painting) tasks of structures/vessels or facilities.
A	Domestic service robot	To autonomously perform floor cleaning, catering, laundry handling, storage handling and logistics activities.

Table 3.1: Some tasks with potential to be "robotized", and the corresponding robot category[PBB11].

A feasibility study performed by researchers from Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation (IFAM) identified several topside production tasks and ranked them according to their resource demand. Based on the identified tasks, the study went on to describe a set of specific tasks, and then assess how easy or hard it would be to "robotize" these tasks. Table 3.1 associates a set of tasks with different robot categories, as well as how easy or hard the process of "robotizing" the activity is expected to be. The difficulty levels are described with the letters "A" through "D", where "A" is described as of the shelf robotics, which makes "robotizing" easy. Activities associated with the letter "D" on the other hand, cannot be be "robotized" with either current or near future technology even if doing so would be beneficial [PBB11]. Note that the paper in question is from 2011, and the difficulty of these tasks may have changed. This is particularly true in the domain of visual sensors, given the bloom of 3d sensor technology over the last six years. Some further

elaboration on inspection activities and environmental considerations is given in the next subsection.

### **3.1.4 Structural Maintenance and Environmental Considerations**

#### **Corrosion**

Offshore installations are regularly, if not continuously, exposed to harsh weather conditions in the form of wind and seawater. Presence of seawater, either through direct contact or in the form of drops and vapor, forms a very corrosive environment. The offshore and marine environment is classified as the most corrosive environment in ISO 12944[ER12]. It is essential to provide countermeasures to ensure safe and reliable operation over the lifetime of the installation. Common corrosion prevention methods are[ER12]:

- Sacrificial Anodes.
- Cathodic Protection (CP) in the form of a DC-current.
- Protective coating.

In terms of maintenance, the sacrificial anodes can be subjected to periodic inspections and replacements, which could be done by a robot. CP can more easily be implemented with automated self tests, and should normally not require any inspections and maintenance[ER12]. Application of protective coating should ideally be applied in the controlled environment of a workshop. If protective coating is to be applied at sea, one should strive to make the conditions as favorable as possible.

#### **Fatigue**

Waves, wind, water currents and other forces subject offshore installations to structural stress.

## **3.2 Robotic Maintenance Today**

Gas leak detection: [SWB<sup>+</sup>14]. DARPA robotic challenge. Industrial ROS.

#### **Trends and Potential**

The typical pre-programmed assembly robots still dominate the robotic market. They are usually found in manufacturing plants and large scale production facilities[ifr], e.g. the automotive industry, where they perform dull, tedious tasks much faster and with higher accuracy than people. A notable trend in modern robotics is increased

human-robot collaboration[Bog16]. Many new robots are being build for the human workspace, both in terms of safety and collaborative functionality. This trend is a step along the way of moving robots out of the controlled environment of a factory floor, and into the real world where a high degree of autonomy is required.

A report by Metra Martech[GC11], a market research firm referenced to by International Federation of Robotics (IFR)<sup>1</sup>, points to three areas with a high potential for robotic applications:

- Dangerous jobs, e.g. handling dangerous materials or work in high risk environments.
- Jobs that are economically infeasible in a high wage economy.
- Work which is impossible or highly inconvenient for humans, e.g. space exploration, subsea maintenance or assembly of heavy components.

All of these factors motivate the development of robots for autonomous robotic maintenance.

### **Subsea Maintenance and Inspection**

Subsea maintenance is perhaps the field that have seen the greatest advancements in autonomous inspection and maintenance. As offshore installations are moved to the seabed, maintenance and inspection has become a significant challenge. This has resulted in a widespread use of Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs). Recent developments in other fields, e.g. computer vision, human-robot collaboration and machine learning, has resulted in new Autonomous Inspection Vehicles (AIVs) and Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) capable of performing inspection and simple maintenance tasks autonomously[JWA<sup>+12</sup>][RCR<sup>+15</sup>]. A driving factor behind the transition from ROVs to AUVs is cost reduction through increased offshore campaign efficiency.

### **Disaster Response**

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.ifr.org/robots-create-jobs/>



Figure 3.1: Subsea 7's AIV. This is the first commercial autonomous inspection vehicle for subsea operations [pre]

Robots in disaster response, relief and recovery solve many of the same problems faced by maintenance robots. Disasters, such as the tsunami which struck Japan in 2011, proved that much work needs to be done, both in terms of technical capabilities and logistical issues related to deployment and response times.

Many of the robots which were deployed at Fukushima were already aging, and the operators had to receive training before deployment, thus increasing the response time[KFO12]. A paper from Japan Atomic Energy Agency[KFO12] highlights how the lack of stakeholder involvement could have been the cause of long response times. The same paper points out that the robots were developed for the sake of development, and not with emergency response as the main purpose[KFO12].

DARPA Robotics Challenge (DRC)[DRC] was launched in response to the Fukushima disaster of 2011. The purpose of the competition is to accelerate innovation, research and development in robotics for disaster response in cases where humans cannot operate. Some of the tasks the competitors faces in 2015 include valve turning, traversing rubble and driving a vehicle through a course before egressing out of the vehicle.

### Robotic Maintenance of Process Plants

Autonomous and teleoperated inspection and maintenance today is usually only found at subsea installations. Topside installations on the other hand are still maintained and inspected manually, with some notable exceptions. Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) have become commonplace over the last decade. On topside installations, they are being used for visual inspection of inaccessible structural parts such as flare stacks or the exterior of oil rigs.

IFA<sup>2</sup> has developed a robot, called Mobile Inspection and Monitoring Robot, experimental (MIMROex), with capabilities which are quite similar to the prototype used during the work on this thesis. MIMROex is equipped with a camera for

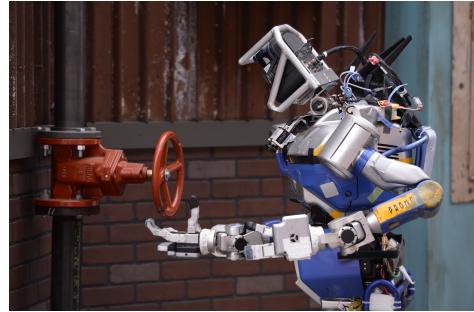


Figure 3.2: Team HRP2-Tokyo's robot turning a valve during DARPA Robotics Challenge 2015 (Image credits: DARPA Robotics Challenge)

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.ipa.fraunhofer.de/en.html>

visual inspections as well as microphones, vibration and sensors for fire and gas detection. It is also certifiable in accordance with the explosion protection standard IEC 60079[MIM].

### **3.3 Modelling and Simulation**

#### **3.3.1 Some Terminology**

##### **Coordinate Systems and Poses**

##### **Robot Joints**

All links are connected to each other by joints.

Coordinate systems are essential in the field of robotics.

#### **3.3.2 Robot Modelling**

#### **3.3.3 Simulating in Gazebo**

### **3.4 ROS**

#### **3.4.1 Introduction**

The Robot Operating System (ROS) is a collection of software libraries, tools and drivers intended for robot software development. A ROS installation can be tailored to meet the demands of a wide range of robots with varying complexity. ROS is usually installed in the form of an already built Debian-package. These packages are only compatible with a few versions of Ubuntu which are specified on the ROS homepage. When installed and configured, ROS will run on top of Linux, and can be perceived as an extension of Linux itself. Installing ROS from source is possible, but not recommended [ROSb].

Roots of ROS can be traced back to Stanford University at the beginning of the 2000s. At Stanford, several robotics software frameworks, including Stanford AI Robot (STAIR) and the Personal Robot (PR) program, were created to provide dynamic, flexible and well tested foundations for further robot development and research. In 2007, a nearby start-up company and robot incubator, Willow Garage, sought to build upon these concepts, and initiated a collaborative and open development process of a new software framework. This framework eventually became ROS[ROSA][QGS15]. The framework can be used under the BSD open-source license, which means that ...[?] Today, ROS comes in many forms and comprise hundreds of advanced packages, algorithms and drivers, making it applicable for hobbyists, industrial automation, research and everything in between.

### 3.4.2 Important ROS Concepts

The following descriptions are included in order to provide a complete, self-contained description of the project implementation. Similar descriptions can be found on the official ROS website<sup>3</sup>, as well as in any book on ROS (for example [QGS15]).

#### The ROS Graph

A ROS system comprise a set of small programs that communicate with each other through messages. These programs become nodes in the ROS graph. The nodes communicate with each other by publishing and subscribing to topics that form the edges of the graph. A topic must have the format of one of the specific data types provided by ROS. For example, a node which receives temperature data from a thermometer, may publish the data as a topic on the ROS system with the type `sensor_msgs/Temperature`. There are many other data formats, e.g. velocity messages, `geometry_msgs/Twist`; images, `sensor_msgs/Image`; odometry messages, `nav_msgs/Odometry` and so on. Each node in the graph are typically POSIX processes, and the edges are TCP connections[QGS15].

#### `roscore`

`roscore` is an essensial part of any ROS system as it enables nodes to communicate with each other. When a node is started, it will inform `roscore` of which topics it publishes and which topics it wish to subscribe to. Then, `roscore` will provide the information which allows the node to form a peer-to-peer connection to other nodes.

#### Project Structure and catkin

A ROS project will usually utilize the catkin build system.

### 3.4.3 ROS-Related Tools

#### Robot Modelling In URDF

#### Visialization in RVIZ

#### Simulation in Gazebo

### 3.4.4 Structure of a ROS Application

### 3.4.5 Notable Robots Running ROS

**PR2 - Personal Robot 2** PR2 is one of the first robots designed to run ROS [QGS15], and also one of the most advanced and capable robots with ROS today.

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<sup>3</sup><http://www.ros.org/>

**TurtleBot** TurtleBot is a cheaper ROS-ready alternative to PR2.

**Robonaut 2** Robonaut 2, a dexterous humanoid robot, currently resides within the International Space Station (ISS) 400 km above the earth's surface. In 2014, a SpaceX Dragon capsule brought ROS as well as a pair of legs for Robonaut up to the ISS[ROSc]. Robonaut is designed for research on human-robot collaboration in space, and human-like tasks. For more information, follow [this link<sup>4</sup>](#) to a talk on ROS in space from ROSCon 2014.

Being the first robot with ROS to be launched into space,

**Example of an industrial robot with ROS goes here!** TODO!!!!!!!!!!

## 3.5 Software

### 3.5.1 Qt

### 3.5.2 PCL

## 3.6 The Kinect Sensor

## 3.7 Software Tools

### 3.7.1 Point Cloud Library

### 3.7.2 ROS

### 3.7.3 Qt

### 3.7.4 Current Research and Applications

## 3.8 Introduction to Sensors in Autonomous Robots

### 3.8.1 Depth Cameras

#### Different Methods for Depth Perception

In the context of this thesis, a depth camera is considered to be a sensor which the functionality of a regular video camera combined with the ability to create a depth image.

A depth camera can be described as a regular color video camera with the ability to create spatial images. In the context of this thesis, a depth camera can more precisely be described as a RGB-D camera, which is short for red, green, blue and

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<sup>4</sup><https://vimeo.com/106993914>

depth camera. In a regular RGB camera, a spatial scene will be projected onto a rectangular pixel grid where each pixel contains intensity values for red, green and blue colors. These pixel values represent the detected scene. A major problem with RGB cameras is the significant loss of information. The information loss is mostly a consequence of 3d to 2d projection and digital quantization. RGB-D cameras have the means to reduce this information loss by mapping the pixel values to spatial coordinates, turning each pixel into voxels and the image into a point cloud of voxels.

Different variations of depth cameras will usually fall into one of two categories: active or passive. Passive sensors perceive the surroundings as it is, without actively interfering with the environment as a part of the sensing process. A typical passive RGB-D sensor is the stereo camera. Stereo cameras use a stream of synchronized image pairs to perceive depth. The image pairs are displaced along the horizontal axis, and the depth information is extracted by searching for mutual information in the image pairs. How far the information is displaced from the left to the right image is directly related to how far away from the camera the information source is located.

Active sensors depend on some form of projection onto the surroundings. For depth cameras, the projection is usually in the form of laser or infra red light. In RGB-D cameras it is essential that the projected light is distinguishable from the visible spectrum. The Kinect sensor used in this project is an example of an active RGB-D sensor. A proper introduction to the Kinect, will follow shortly.

### **Natural User Interfaces - Origin of the Kinect**

The idea behind a Natural user interface (NUI) is to make Human-Machine Interaction (HMI) as seamless and natural as possible. A NUI allows the user to communicate without tools such as a keyboard or a mouse. For decades, NUIs have only existed as ideas, science fiction or research projects. This has changed dramatically over the last ten years, and NUIs can now be considered to be ubiquitous. Today, the most common form of NUIs is the touch screen found in smart phones and tablets.

The Microsoft Kinect sensor was initially designed as a NUI for the Xbox 360 gaming console. The sensor allows users to use gestures and sounds to play console games. Later on, Microsoft has released SDKs, enabling developers to create NUI applications for Windows.

### **Kinect for Xbox 360**

Kinect for Xbox 360 is the RGB-D sensor used in this project. The device was initially intended as a NUI for gaming and office applications, and was the first consumer grade sensor to utilize structured light. Possible use cases were inspired by early NUI research at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and, later on, the

science fiction movie Minority Report, where Tom Cruice interacts with a computer by using hand gestures [WA12]. The Kinect sensor is equipped with a depth sensor, a regular color camera, a microphone array and a tilt motor. The color camera in combination with the depth sensor forms what is usually referred to as a RGB-D sensor, i.e. a combined color and depth camera (figure 3.4). This feature, combined with the relatively low cost and accessibility of the sensor has contributed to make the Kinect very popular in research projects related to Simultaneous Localization And Mapping (SLAM) and robotics. In the three first years since it's release in 2010, over 3000 papers in well-known journals and proceedings were devoted to research on the Kinect sensor. Roughly 500 of these papers focused on SLAM or 3d reconstruction[BMNK13]. Some of the other papers focused on some of the weaknesses with the sensor, such as detection of glass surfaces and having several sensors in the same area.

Today, the the Kinect for Xbox 360 has been succeeded by the Kinect for Xbox One, and is now considered to be a legacy device. Those considering to use the legacy Kinect should be aware of that it is becoming increasingly difficult, if not already impossible, to get hold of a new Kinect for Xbox 360.

### **3.8.2 Plannar Laser Sensors (LIDAR)**

A plannar laser sensor, known as e.g. laser proximity sensors or laser radars, can all be referred to as LIDARs.

#### **Scanning Laser Range Finder, URG-04LX-UG01**

### **3.8.3 Odometers**

### **3.8.4 Sensor Fusion**

## **3.9 Simultanious Localization and Mapping (SLAM)**

### **3.9.1 Introduunction to SLAM**

SLAM, also known as Concurrent Localization and Mapping (CLM), is a class of solutions to the problem of determining an agents location and pose in an unknown environment, while simultaneously mapping the same environment.

### **3.9.2 Hector SLAM**

### **3.9.3 RTAB-Map**

Real-Time Appearance-Based Mapping (RTAB-Map) is a graph-based SLAM system intended to handle the "kidnapped robot-problem" as well as multi-session

mapping[LM14]. Both these problems become relevant whenever a robot is shut down and moved to a new unknown location in the same area. RTAB-Map is the core feature in the implementation that is described in this thesis. Some factors which motivated the use of RTAB-Map are:

- It is a SLAM method which requires an RGB-D sensor, for example a Kinect.
- RTAB-Map has a ROS wrapper, `rtabmap_ros`, which eases the process of integrating it with the mobile robot.
- It includes obstacle detection in 3d.
- It can use Speeded Up Robust Features (SURF) or Scale-invariant feature transform (SIFT) from OpenCV for object recognition.
- It has a long-term memory intended for large scale multi-session mapping.

### 3.9.4 Octomap

## 3.10 Navigation



Figure 3.3: Awesome Image

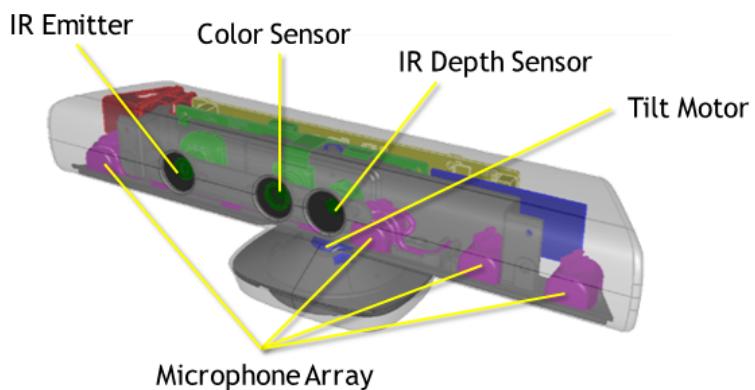


Figure 3.4: Awesome Image

# Chapter 4 Implementation

Implementation procedure for mobile robot:

- Decide on ROS message interface.
- Write interfaces for the motor drivers.
- Create a description of the physical structure and properties of the robot in Unified Robot Description Format (URDF).
- Extend the model to enable simulation in Gazebo.
- Publish coordinate transform data via *tf* and visualize it in rviz.
- Add sensors, with driver and simulation support.
- Apply algorithms for navigation and other functionality.

## 4.1 Modeling

### 4.1.1 Introduction

### 4.1.2 Physical Dimensions

The inertia tensor:

$$I = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx} & I_{xy} & I_{xz} \\ I_{yx} & I_{yy} & I_{yz} \\ I_{zx} & I_{zy} & I_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.1)$$

Inertia tensor for a solid, uniform cylinder where the radius  $r$  is measured in parallel to the  $x - y$  plane, and  $h$  is parallel to the  $z$  axis:

$$I_{cylinder} = \frac{1}{12}m \begin{bmatrix} (3r^2 + h^2) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & (3r^2 + h^2) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & r^2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.2)$$

Inertia tensor for a solid, uniform cuboid. The subscript of  $l$  indicates which axis  $l$  is measured along:

$$I_{cuboid} = \frac{1}{12}m \begin{bmatrix} (l_y^2 + l_z^2) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & (l_x^2 + l_z^2) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & (l_x^2 + l_y^2) \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.3)$$

#### 4.1.3 Coordinate Frames

### 4.2 Simulations

### 4.3 ROS Nodes for Motion Control

#### 4.3.1 Velocity Command Sources

There are four ways to control the robot:

- Local keyboard input.
- Wireless teleoperation from the Operator Control Station (OCS).
- Wireless teleoperation from a handheld Bluetooth device.
- Commands from the navigation stack in ROS.

### 4.4 Operator Control Station (OCS)

The OCS allows an operator to control and monitor the robot through a graphical user interface. `MainWindow`

#### 4.4.1 Graphical User Interface

A Qt-based Graphical User Interface (GUI)...

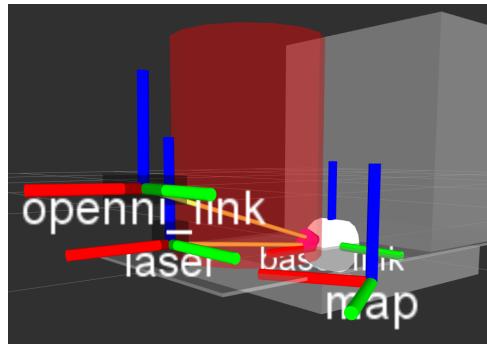


Figure 4.1: Robot model with frames for laser, Kinect, robot base and map.

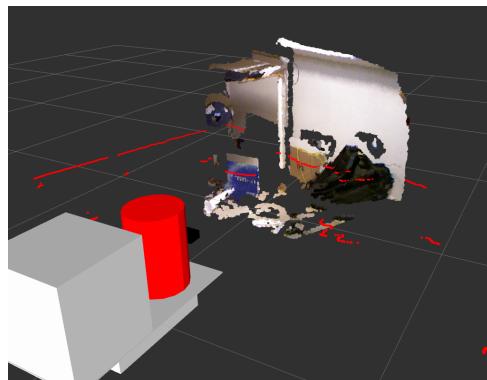


Figure 4.2: Sensor input placed with correct transformations from *base\_link*.

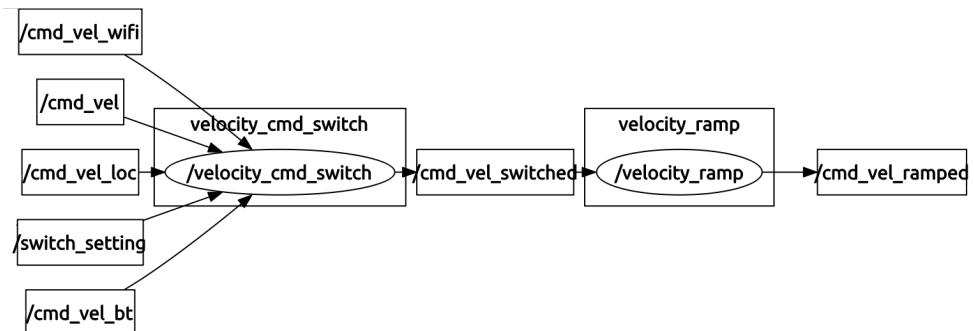


Figure 4.3: Nodes and topics for motion control.

## 4.5 The Hand Held Remote Control - *Robot Leash*

Because the OCS is only partially implemented, an operator will not have access to all the features on the robot. In addition, as a safety precaution a person should be close to the robot at all times, and be ready to pull the plug. Furthermore, it is hard to control a moving robot through the on-board keyboard. These problems were countered by the Android-based remote control, *Robot Leash*.

### 4.5.1 Connecting to the Robot

1. The first screen after scanning for devices. There is no device filtering, and the user can select any device, but only connect through a specific service.
2. After selecting a device which provides the correct service, the user will be prompted to pair the devices.
3. The smartphone and the robot is now paired, and velocity commands from the blue control stick are passed to the robot via Bluetooth.

<http://developer.samsung.com/technical-doc/view.do?v=T000000117>

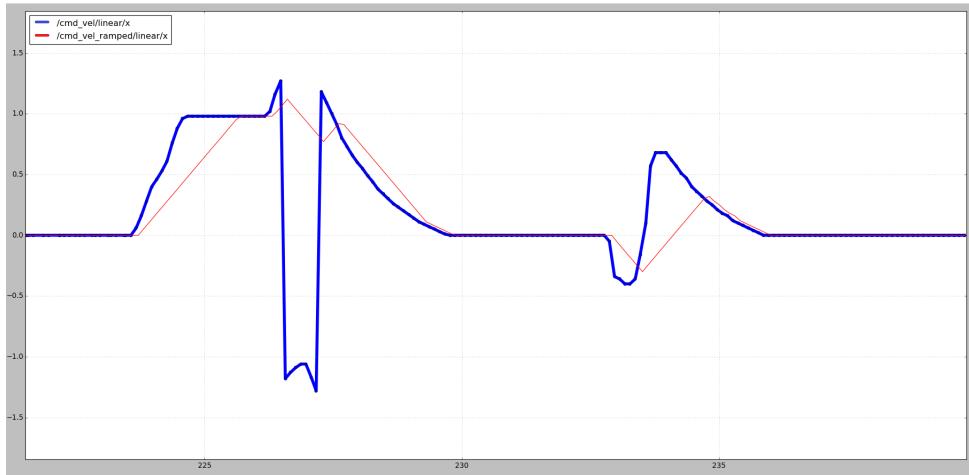
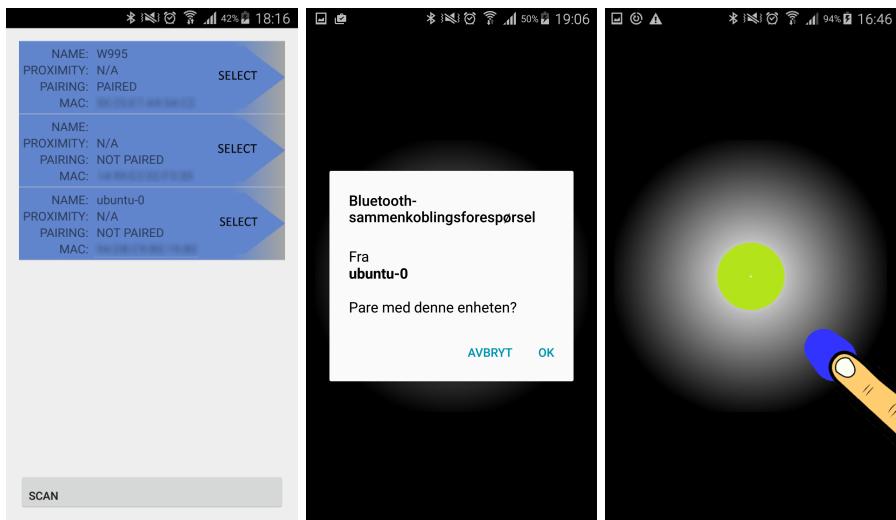


Figure 4.4: Velocity command ramping. The blue line represents commands entering *velocity\_ramp*, while the red line shows the acceleration constrained output command.



(a) First activity with device list. (b) The user is prompted to pair with the robot. (c) Controlling the robot with the stick.

Figure 4.5: A typical use case for "Robot Leash".



# Chapter 5

## Testing

### 5.1 Testplan

### 5.2 Results

#### 5.2.1 Simulations

#### 5.2.2 Live Testing

Safety Features

Multi Session Mapping

Navigating an Obstacle Course

Dynamic Replanning

### 5.3 Discussion

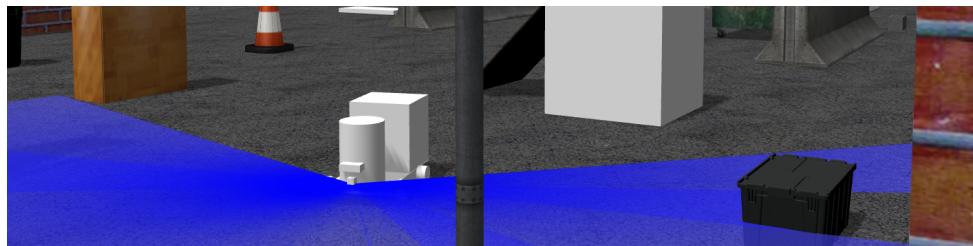


Figure 5.1: The "Asphalt" world in Gazebo.



Figure 5.2: An example of incorrect map merging. This case occurred in the "Asphalt" world simulated in Gazebo.

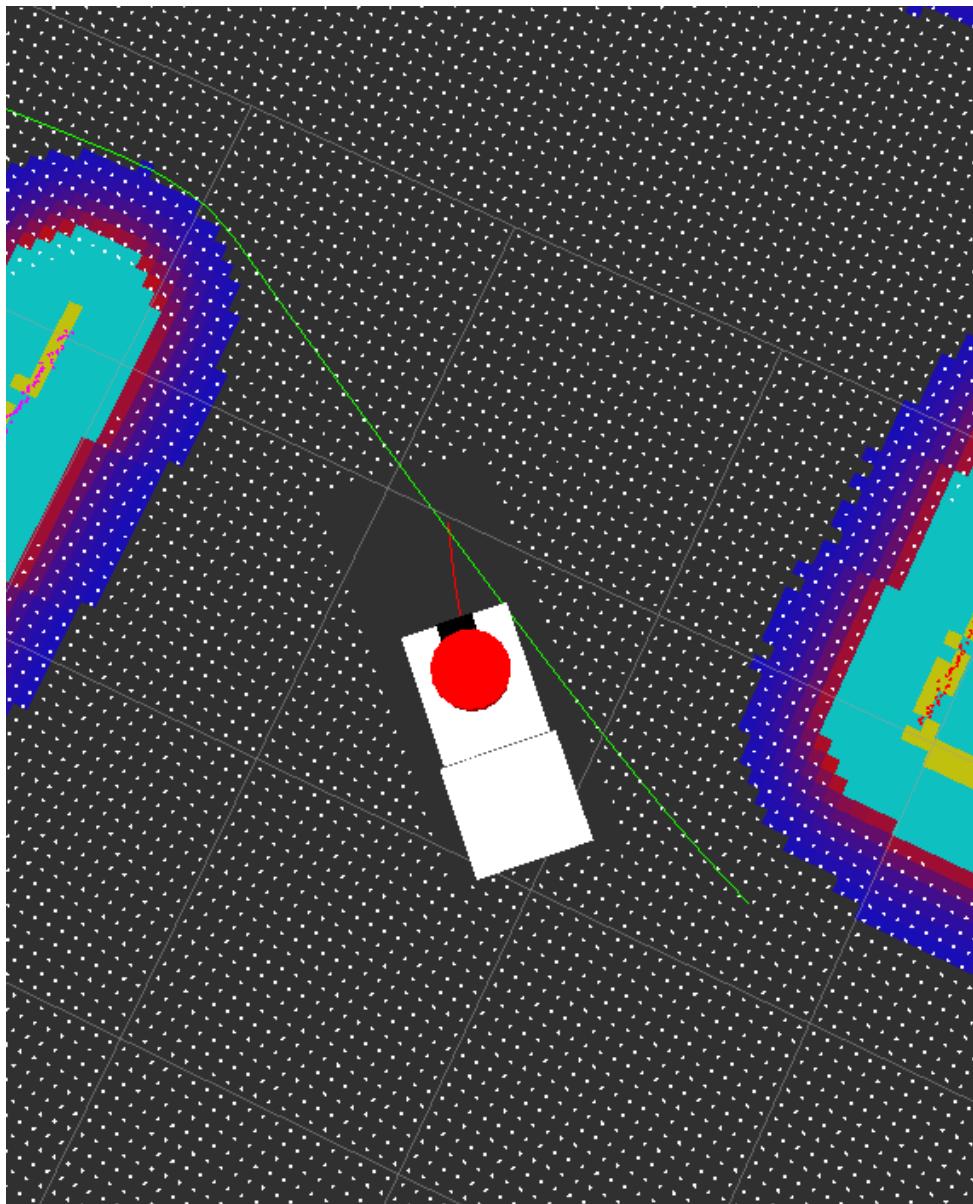


Figure 5.3: Nodes and topics for motion control.



# Chapter Discussion

# 6



# Chapter 7 Conclusion

## 7.1 Future Work

### 7.1.1 Autonomous Non-Destructive Testing

Advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data and machine learning opens up exciting possibilities for autonomous Non-destructive Testing (NDT). Branches of this technology is usually encountered in the context of image recognition, i.e. teaching machines to understand what they see. The same concepts may be applied to forms of NDT besides regular visual sensor input, such as ultra sound or eddy currents for corrosion detection.

### 7.1.2 Large Scale Kinect Fusion - Kintinous

Kinect Fusion has great potential for augmented reality. Augmented reality is a concept which blends the real and virtual environment. This opens up opportunities to create realistic and immersive training scenarios for the operators. Unfortunately, Kinect Fusion is limited reconstructing a rather small volume depending on the resolution. By varying the resolution, volumes can at the least cover a normal office desk and at the most cover a small room [? ].

Kintinous...

A guide on how to build Kintinous can be found at <https://github.com/mp3guy/Kintinous>. The procedure is complicated, as it usually is for experimental builds. It is recommended to attempt the procedure on a fresh install of Ubuntu 14.04 or 15.04 [Kin].

### Improve the Communication Protocols

Communication between ROS and the XMEGA A3BU, the Bluetooth device and the OCS, all use the same pattern: A start byte ":", the message with the speed setting

and a stop byte "Esc". In later projects, it could be beneficial to implement a more robust and rich communication protocol with more options for remote operation.

### **Implement a Fully Functional Operator Control Station**

At the end of this project, the OCS provided functionality for moving the robot, and displaying live video from the Kinect.

#### **7.1.3 Hardware**

Several hardware-related issues became apparent over the course of the project - especially toward the final weeks. These issues are likely the results of many disconnected projects on the same hardware.

#### **Kinect Sensor Location**

This is the first semester in which a Kinect has been used on the robot. At the moment, the sensor is placed directly over the Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR). Because the depth sensor in the Kinect for XBOX 360 has a minimum range of roughly  $0.5m$ , it cannot detect objects within reach of the robot arm. It is recommended to find a new location further back on the robot.

#### **Combine Stereo Cameras with Kinect-like Sensors**

As mentioned, both active and passive depth cameras have limitations. The Kinect does function in direct sunlight, but it can measure depth in the dark. Passive depth sensors, for example stereo cameras, does depend on visible light to sense anything at all. While RTAB-Map does depend on visibility for loop closure detection, there are other SLAM methods, e.g. *Kinect Fusion*, which do not. An implementation could use a light sensor to sense light that may interfere with the Kinect. Light levels could be compared to a threshold and switch between the stereo cameras or the Kinect depending on how well each sensor will work in the current conditions.

#### **On-board Computer Suitable for Moving Platforms**

Because this author used his own computer to control the robot, all features related to ROS was removed from the robot at the end of the project. A new computer should be equipped with Solid State Drive (SSD) storage

#### **Wheels**

There were mainly two issues with the omni-wheels this semester: They are worn out, and one wheel slipped out of



the motor drive shaft. The rubber on a few of the perpendicular rollers is either loose or about to fall off the plastic rims. This causes the robot to shake, which can damage spinning hard disk drives or shake the sensors out of their calibrated positions.

## 7.2 Task Fulfillment

### 7.3 Task Fulfilment

### 7.4 Final Conclusion



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# Appendix A Setting Up the Project

## A.1 Installation

### A.1.1 Equipment List

Item List

Software list

**Hector SLAM for ROS** Install with

```
sudo apt-get install ros-indigo-hector-slam
```

**Compatibility Issues**

Indigo, Ubuntu etc.

### A.1.2 Install Ubuntu

### A.1.3 Download ROS

## A.2 Configuring the Project

### A.2.1 Configuring the ROS Workspace

### A.2.2 Configuring the Bluetooth Connection

The Qt framework is used to simplify the implementation of the Bluetooth connection between the ROS graph and a remote device. Our ROS installation for this project already includes some variant of Qt version 4.8. While useful for creating new GUI applications, it lacks a Bluetooth API. The latest version of Qt, version 5.x, is equipped with libraries necessary for developing Bluetooth applications. This part

of the guide will explain how to create a Qt 5 application which can be build by *catkin\_make* and run as a *rosnode*.

## 1 - Install Qt5

Installing Qt5 for Linux is a straight forward procedure. Go to qt.io, and download the free version of Qt. All necessary instructions are provided. Qt5 may be installed in the home folder.

## 2- Enabling Qt5 in a ROS node

It is assumed that the ROS package "bluetooth\_server", is located in a catkin workspace:

```
<NAME OF CATKIN WORKSPACE>/src/bluetooth_server
```

Inside this folder, open the file "CMakeLists.txt" and locate the following:

```
set(CMAKE_PREFIX_PATH "/home/vegard/Qt/5.5/gcc_64/lib/cmake/Qt5"  
    "/home/vegard/Qt/5.5/gcc_64/lib/cmake/Qt5Core"  
    "/home/vegard/Qt/5.5/gcc_64/lib/cmake/Qt5Bluetooth"
```

Change these paths to the correct paths on your system.

# Appendix B

## Troubleshooting

### B.1 Introduction

This chapter contains proposed solutions to some of the problems that was encountered over the course od the semester. The solutions are not complete or comprehensive, but may provide some quick fixes for any students that may continue working with this project.

### B.2 ROS

#### B.2.1 **ERROR: tf2:ExtrapolationException**

When running the released ROS distribution binary of RTAB-Map installed with `apt-get` on the robot, the node would crash after a few iterations. The error message is as follows:

```
Lookup would require extrapolation into the future, ..., when looking up transform from frame [laser] to frame [base_link].
```

The requested transform is milliseconds ahead of "now". This issue was fixed by maintainers in March 2016<sup>1</sup>, but was not yet integrated into the released binary. During work with this project, the problem was solved by building RTAB-Map from source, where the most recent fixes are included. This is a straight forward procedure, which is described on the project's GitHub repository.

---

<sup>1</sup>[https://github.com/introlab/rtabmap\\_ros/issues/54](https://github.com/introlab/rtabmap_ros/issues/54)

## B.3 Gazebo

### B.3.1 Error [Node.cc.90] No namespace found

**Solution:** Remember to source the *gazebo* installation. In this case, with *gazebo-2.2* installed as recommended for ROS Indigo, the setup file can be sourced by typing

```
$ source /usr/share/gazebo-2.2/setup.sh
```

### B.3.2 Dependency Issues When Installing *gazebo2*

This problem was encountered after removing *gazebo* and then typing

```
$ sudo apt-get upgrade
```

When typing

```
$ sudo apt-get install -y gazebo2
```

the installation failed because some dependencies had been upgraded to an incompatible version. To solve this, take note of the missing dependencies listed after entering the command above, open Ubuntu Software Center and select the History tab. Scroll down and locate the missing dependencies. They should have a red X next to them, indicating that they have been uninstalled. Then, enter the following command:

```
$ sudo apt-get install <NAME OF THE UNINSTALLED DEPENDENCY>
```

*gazebo2*

## B.4 Ubuntu

### B.4.1 Ubuntu Freezes

Sometimes during work with the project, Ubuntu would freeze and become unresponsive to keyboard input and mouse clicks. The mouse could be moved around, but was otherwise unresponsive. This event occurred exclusively when using *RVIZ* and displaying a camera topic as an image in the lower left corner of the GUI. The following steps from a post at askubuntu.com, solves the problem [Reb]:

While holding **[Alt]** and **SysReq (Print Screen)**, type **R E I S U B**. Press each key properly, and allow a few seconds to pass between each keystroke so that each command has time to execute. This should cause the computer to reboot, and is supposedly safer than using the power button. Follow **this** link to the post for more details.